

**ABSTRACT****CARTRIDGE FOR THE PREPARATION OF BEVERAGES**

5        A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients  
and being formed from substantially air- and water-  
impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a  
compartment containing the one or more beverage ingredients,  
the compartment comprising a plurality of inlet apertures  
10 for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the  
compartment and a plurality of outlet apertures for a  
beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients,  
wherein at least a proportion of the inlet apertures are out  
of alignment with the outlet apertures such that at least a  
15 proportion of the aqueous medium entering the compartment  
through the inlet apertures is forced to circulate within  
the compartment before exiting the compartment through the  
outlet apertures, characterised in that the inlet apertures  
are arranged around the periphery of the compartment.

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